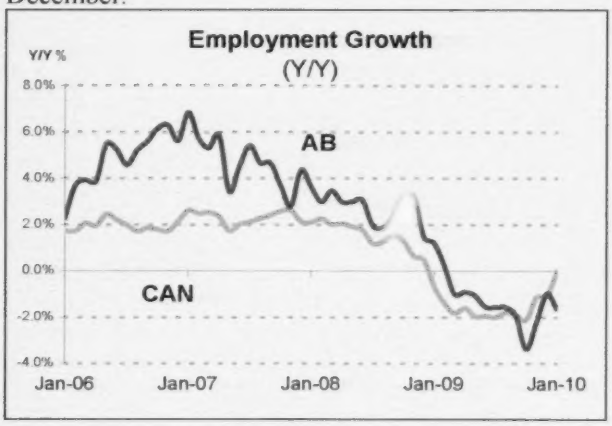
Labour Markets

Alberta gives back some of the recent gains in part-time employment…

Employment in Alberta decreased by 7,700 in January, due largely to the loss of 13,900 part-time jobs. This decline more than offset the 6,300 full-time positions created. Alberta's unemployment rate remained at 6.6% and continues to be the third lowest amongst provinces, behind only Saskatchewan (4.7%) and Manitoba (5.4%).

Nationally, employment increased by 43,000 in January, almost entirely as a result of higher part-time employment. This reduced the national unemployment rate to 8.3% in January, from 8.4% in December.



US labour market deterioration coming to an end...

Employment continued to decline in the US as 20,000 more job losses were recorded in January.

While the unemployment rate declined from 10.0% to 9.7% in January, the annual revision of employment revealed that nearly 4.8 million jobs were lost in 2009. Since the US recession began in December 2007, employment has declined by almost 8.4 million people.

Average Hourly Wage Rate

Alberta continues to lead the country…

The average hourly wage rate in Alberta reached $25.15 in January, up 1.3% from December. This wage rate represents an increase of 1.1% from January 2009 and continues to be the highest in Canada. Nationally, the average hourly wage rate was $22.51, a 1.8% increase from a year earlier.

↓	**Canadian Dollar (US¢/CS)**	
	February 5, 2010	93.24
	January 29, 2010	93.90
	2009-10 YTD	91.12
↓	**WTI Oil US$/bbl**	
	February 4, 2010	$73.14
	January 28, 2010	$73.64
	2009-10 YTD	$69.15
↑	**Nymex Natural Gas CS/MMBtu** *	
	Near-month Contract	
	February 5, 2010	$5.95
	January 29, 2010	$5.57

*Estimate based on Nymex Futures Market Price

Ivey PMI

Index suggests expansion…

The Ivey Purchasing Managers Index was 50.8 in January, up slightly from the 48.4 level recorded in December. A value above 50 on the index, which measures Canadian purchasing manager's buying activity, implies expansion.

Building Permits

Recession behind, recovery underway…

The month-over-month value of building permits in Alberta increased 9.1% in December to just over $1.2 billion (seasonally adjusted). This growth was almost entirely driven by strong increase in the value of building permits for the commercial sector (94.5%). Nationally, contractors took out nearly $6.2 billion in building permits in December, an increase of 2.4% from November.

Global Economy

Concerns over European debt mount…

Concerns that the mounting fiscal problems in Greece, Portugal and Spain might spread across Europe have rattled the markets during the week. As a result, the US dollar gained as investors looked for a safe haven and equity markets and commodity prices both declined. The price of oil is now trading around US$72/bbl, down from around the US$80/bbl mark it was at for most of January.

Alberta

CURRENT ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Overall Economy	2008	2009	2010YTD*	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Real GDP (in 2002 $billions)	185.8	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
% change	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nominal GDP ($ billions)	291.3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
% change	14.1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Population[1] (000's) (level)	3,596	3,688	3,704	--	--	3,704	--	--	--
% change	2.4	2.6	2.3	--	--	2.3	--	--	--
Net Interprovincial Migraton[1] (level)	15,317	23,006	-2,535	--	--	-2,535	--	--	--
Net International Migration[1] (level)	20,039	20,074	7,976	--	--	7,976	--	--	--
Net Non-permanent Residents[1] (level)	18,536	19,058	2,439	--	--	2,439	--	--	--
Labour Market									
Employment (000's) NEW!	2,013	1,988	1,961	1,975	1,985	1,975	1,988	1,995	1,988
% change	2.8	-1.3	-1.6	-1.6	-1.9	-3.4	-2.3	-1.0	-1.6
Unemployment Rate (%) NEW!	3.6	6.6	6.6	7.3	6.8	7.2	7.1	6.6	6.6
Average Hourly Wage Rate NEW!	5.7	4.3	1.1	5.9	3.7	3.9	2.5	1.3	1.1
Average Weekly Earnings[2]	6.0	3.2	--	1.2	0.6	2.0	1.4	--	--
Labour Income[3]	8.7	1.7	--	-1.6	-1.9	--	--	--	--
Price Indices									
Consumer Price Index	3.1	-0.1	--	-1.7	-1.1	0.1	0.8	0.6	--
Excluding food and energy	2.1	1.4	--	1.3	1.4	1.8	1.0	0.7	--
Non-Res. Const. Cost Index[4] (quarterly)	13.2	-9.3	--	--	-14.8	--	--	--	--
Farm Product Price Index	11.2	-10.6	--	-17.3	-18.8	--	--	--	--
Crops	26.2	-22.9	--	-23.6	-20.2	--	--	--	--
Livestock	2.3	0.4	--	-15.4	-13.2	--	--	--	--
Household Sector									
Housing Starts (SAAR, 000's)	29.0	19.2	--	20.1	22.6	26.6	26.0	27.4	--
% change	-39.7	-33.7	--	-13.7	-6.2	5.6	26.8	37.0	--
New Housing Price Index	0.7	-9.2	--	-8.9	-8.9	-7.9	-7.1	--	--
Edmonton	1.0	-11.3	--	-11.4	-11.4	-10.1	-9.8	--	--
Calgary	0.6	-7.0	--	-6.3	-6.4	-5.6	-4.2	--	--
MLS Average Resale Prices	-1.4	-3.1	--	0.2	1.3	2.6	3.5	7.0	--
Edmonton	-2.0	-3.5	--	-3.3	0.7	0.4	0.0	2.6	--
Calgary	-2.9	-4.2	--	-0.4	1.1	2.9	4.4	8.8	--
Retail Sales	-0.1	-9.3	--	-10.1	-8.8	-6.5	-6.9	--	--
New Motor Vehicle Sales	-7.3	-23.2	--	-20.6	-15.6	-13.3	-21.3	--	--
Business Sector									
Public and Private Investment[5]	3.6	-17.2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mining and oil and gas[5]	-1.4	-28.2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rigs Drilling	-2.1	-45.6	--	-62.7	-54.1	-50.9	-35.6	-3.8	--
Goods Exports (customs based)	34.6	-39.2	--	-42.6	-40.3	-39.6	--	--	--
Energy	42.5	-44.1	--	-45.1	-42.3	-41.3	--	--	--
Agriculture	32.0	-7.4	--	-9.3	-23.8	-23.8	--	--	--
Total Farm Cash Receipts (quarterly)	17.2	-6.7	--	--	-16.1	--	--	--	--
Manufacturing Shipments	7.0	-22.8	--	-25.9	-29.2	-23.0	-11.6	--	--
Wholesale Trade	10.9	-14.5	--	-22.5	-20.3	-24.1	-17.3	--	--
Building Permits	-16.5	-17.1	--	-7.6	-8.0	77.1	8.4	59.5	--
Residential NEW!	-31.5	-13.7	--	39.1	40.8	53.6	50.8	59.5	--
Non-residential NEW!	3.7	-20.2	--	-46.9	-46.0	101.3	-19.7	59.6	--

Government of Alberta
Finance and Enterprise

* YTD – year-to-date represents the change since the beginning of the year compared to the same period in the previous year.

[1] Quarterly; annual numbers are presented on a census year basis (July 1 - June 30).

[2] The average weekly earnings series was extensively revised on March 31, 2009 and is no longer comparable with numbers in previous Bulletins.

[3] Total income earning in Alberta including wages and salaries, and supplementary income.

[4] Average of Calgary and Edmonton.

[5] 2009 total based on revised investment intentions, 2008 preliminary actuals, and 2007 actuals; 2009 mining and oil and gas based on initial investment intentions

Sources: All data is from Statistics Canada except Housing Starts (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation), MLS Average Resale Prices (Canadian Real Estate Association) and Rigs Drilling (Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors).

Alberta

CURRENT ECONOMIC INDICATORS, BY PROVINCE

	Canada	Nfld.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.
Conference Board Forecast (Autumn 2009)											
Real GDP Growth											
2008 (actuals, Statistics Canada)	***0.4%***	0.5%	0.5%	2.2%	0.0%	1.0%	-0.5%	2.0%	4.2%	**0.0%**	0.0%
2009	***-2.3%***	-3.6%	0.9%	0.4%	0.4%	-1.4%	-2.9%	0.5%	-2.6%	**-2.6%**	-2.0%
2010	***3.0%***	-0.5%	1.8%	1.9%	2.0%	2.4%	3.2%	2.5%	3.7%	**3.0%**	4.2%
Population (As of October 1, 2009)											
Population	**33,873,357**	510,272	141,374	940,397	750,457	7,856,881	13,119,251	1,226,196	1,034,974	**3,703,979**	4,479,934
Annual Growth Rate[a]	***1.2%***	0.5%	0.7%	0.3%	0.4%	1.0%	1.0%	1.4%	1.6%	**2.3%**	1.6%
Net Interprovincial Migration											
2009 Census Year (July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009)		2,332	-559	-1,255	-537	-10,666	-18,738	-1,541	4,108	**23,006**	4,673
2010 Census Year (July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010)		863	-283	320	38	-120	-1,748	-712	823	**-2,535**	3,457
Employment											
Level Change (000s)[b] NEW!	**-6.0**	3.9	3.4	-6.6	-4.3	18.8	-8.3	6.3	-1.6	**-32.9**	15.1
Percent Change[b]	***0.0%***	2.0%	5.4%	-1.5%	-1.2%	0.5%	-0.1%	1.1%	-0.3%	**-1.6%**	0.7%
Unemployment Rate, 2010 avg (SA)	***8.3***	14.9	9.9	9.8	9.3	8.0	9.2	5.4	4.7	**6.6**	8.1
Participation Rate, 2010 avg (SA)	***67.1***	59.6	68.4	64.0	64.5	64.8	67.2	69.7	69.5	**73.4**	66.3
Average Weekly Earnings											
November 2009	**830.46**	823.79	692.89	733.10	751.11	764.37	856.57	783.65	816.31	**967.00**	798.86
Y/Y Percent Increase[c]	***1.5%***	4.7%	3.6%	1.8%	2.0%	2.1%	1.5%	3.6%	2.0%	**1.4%**	0.3%
2009 Wage Settlements (Jan-Dec)										**1.8%**	
CPI Inflation											
December Annual	**1.3%**	1.9%	3.0%	2.6%	3.0%	2.1%	1.2%	1.1%	1.1%	**0.6%**	0.4%
Excluding Shelter	**2.4%**	2.6%	4.0%	3.4%	3.6%	2.7%	2.4%	1.9%	2.1%	**2.3%**	1.9%
Housing Starts (000s)											
SAAR December 2009	**174.5**	4.0	1.3	3.5	3.9	49.7	56.0	3.8	4.2	**27.4**	20.8
Retail Sales											
Percent Change[d]	**0.6%**	4.5%	1.3%	6.6%	3.7%	2.1%	1.3%	1.4%	-1.9%	**-6.9%**	2.0%
2009 YTD Retail Sales Growth	**-3.9%**	2.2%	-1.1%	-0.5%	-0.9%	-1.6%	-3.5%	-1.6%	-2.8%	**-9.3%**	-6.3%
Manufacturing Shipments											
Percent Change[d]	**-7.8%**	-7.9%	6.2%	-5.1%	21.8%	-4.0%	-9.3%	-13.7%	-13.4%	**-11.6%**	-10.8%

a. Over the past 12 months
b. January 2010 Y/Y change, unadjusted for seasonal effects
c. Updated to November 2009
d. November 2009 Y/Y change, unadjusted for seasonal effects
SA-Seasonally Adjusted, SAAR-Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate
Source: Statistics Canada, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Conference Board of Canada